

CITY OF ISLE COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 10th, 2019

At 6:00 pm the regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: Mayor Rodney Schultz, Donald Dahlen, Robert Koelfgen, Monica Keding and Ginger Houle.

Other staff present were: Mark Reichel, Jason Minenko, Tim Schug, Jamie Hubbell, Monica Weets, Damien Toven (Attorney) and Tim Ramerth (WSN Engineer).

Motion to approve the amended agenda by Houle, second by Dahlen. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. **Motion** to approve the August Regular meeting minutes by Keding and seconded by Houle. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. After confirmation of Region's loan payment by Koelfgen, Dahlen made the **motion** to approve the August final claims totaling \$251,796.83 with Houle seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. **Motion** by Keding to approve the September month to date claims totaling \$107,310.67, was made with Koelfgen seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Open Forum: Henry Remer, 910 Isle Street West, requested at the meeting to address the council. Mr. Remer stated that he has had water quality issues for over thirty (30) years. Minenko stated that pipes in older homes are typically made from galvanized steel and have aging issues; build up, break down and decay. Other people in the audience stated that they do not have the same issues as Remer and he called them "ignorant". The discussion continued with input from Ramerth and Toven and ended with Remer demanding that his water be tested for everything in his water. He also wanted explanation on how a ten (10) year Bond turned into 30-40 years of debt. He feels that he has seen 120% increase in his taxes. Remer became disorderly and was then asked to leave the chambers.

Public Hearings, Requests and/or Complaints:

- a. Preliminary 2020 Tax Levy presented for council review. Proposed General Revenue at \$1,111,003, (\$51,899) short of proposed expenses + GO Bond Levy for Fire Hall loan. Dahlen made a **motion** to approve the highest option for the full amount of deficit and not to levy the fire hall loan. Motion was not seconded. A new **motion** by Koelfgen to approve the highest increase at 6.187% \$51,899 and add the full GO Bond Levy of \$31323.60 for the fire hall loan. Houle seconded. All 5 members were in favor of this option. Motion carried. **Resolution 2019-09A** to approve the preliminary 2020 tax levy at \$667,238.60 (General Revenue, Roads & Bridges, Fire and GO Bond) total preliminary increase at 15%.
- b. Request for Motion presented to council to set the dates for budget work session and final 2020 tax levy Truth in Taxation hearing. October 8th at 7pm. November 12th at 7pm. and December 10th final tax levy discussion and Truth in Taxation hearing. Houle made the **Motion** to approve these work sessions after each regular meeting with Dahlen seconding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Public Works – Supervisor Minenko presented the monthly department report and wanted to address the Remer open forum discussion further. Minenko stated that he and his staff have attempted multiple times to assist Mr. Remer by flushing his private line and test his water for him, but that every time he refuses them access to his home. He stated that they have been flushing hydrants on Isle Street West on a weekly basis all summer specifically for Remer to reduce any possible sediment getting into his lines from the main. Playground inspections completed and minor repairs made. Prepared the salt shed lot for the recycling containers coming from Mille Lacs County this winter. Sanitary Sewer flushing on Malone Island finished. Water and Sewer revenue totals for the month were \$42,237.38

Police Department- Chief Reichel presented his report to council covering the 204 incident reports for the month. Summary of the calls for the month reviewed and highlighted.

Liquor Store Operations- Manager Weets presented her report for the monthly sales. August revenues were up \$16,352.25 from August 2018, at \$111,680.34 total revenue. Expenses were down from August last year by \$4665.51 with \$124,629.98 in total expenses. Even with that being said, month end net effect was still at a loss at \$-12,949.64. YTD \$630,316.05.

Off sale purchases were higher due to big buys before fall price increases. Over time wages were up to cover multiple staff vacation and time-off requests. Started “Men’s Night with no-cash black jack plays. Corn hole tournament on the 14th to coincide with First National Bank’s customer appreciation day. All proceeds donated to Isle food shelf. “Wine and Spirits” night set for 21st. with a physic medium coming for entertainment. **Motion** by Schultz, second by Keding to allow the event, approved by 4-1 vote with Dahlen opposing. New fall sweatshirts selling well. New menu items are selling out each week. Working on vendors to get Minnesota Wild tickets as a promotional prize. **Resolution 2019-09B** To Approve the hiring of one Part Time Bartender; Donald Graber Jr. and one Part Time Janitorial services employee; Karen Schmiede approved by motion from Houle and seconded by Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Fire Department- Chief Schug was present to discuss and answer any questions regarding the new Ambulance Lease with Mille Lacs Health System. Schug’s request to council if lease was approved, was to allow the ’35 truck to be stored inside one of the public works garages. Council agreed that it could be stored at the boat house since it did not need to be heated and is only used for parades typically. Schultz recommend the rent be set at \$500.00 per month for the first year to allow them the expenses needed to get things set up. Increase in rent will be discussed at one (1) year renewal. All excessive utility charges over and above the averages will be charged directly to MLHS. Mayor Schultz made the **motion** to approve the new lease agreement with Dahlen, Koelfgen, Keding and Houle all voting aye in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Schug let council know that there would be charges for repairs to the pumper truck from GATR. **Resolution 2019-09C** Approving the hire of one On Call firefighter; David Lange; **motion** by Houle and seconded by Dahlen. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Planning Commission – Houle reviewed the agenda items from the last meeting. Blight issues and Land Use permits were reviewed and the Variance application from Christensen/Hunter Winfield’s was tabled for further information. Discussion will continue with the DNR and the attorneys to get clarification of variance allowance and will be brought to council next month.

Airport Committee – Dahlen reported that the Airport Commission did not meet last month, but that they are still waiting on the completion of the air easement. Ramerth stated that they were wrapping it up and that it should be completed in the next week. Patrick Moenkhaus wanted the council to move forward with their decision on tree removal, but Schultz stated that we had to wait for the survey to be completed first.

City Engineer –Tim Ramerth was present, to review his report provided at the meeting. Funding obligation is completed. Complete survey and wetland delineations will be the next step and design will be completed over the winter. Project should be ready to bid February/March 2020. Construction could begin in the Spring. Malone Island Bridge project has been finalized with the retirement of County Engineer Bruce Cochran. Although the 70% landscaping standard has yet to be met. Father Hennepin State Park meeting with the DNR was productive. The state will send a services agreement when they are ready. Isle Airport survey was completed by use of a drone. Finalized certificate of survey will be completed next week.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Hunter Winfield’s Variance Application discussion was tabled due to tabling at the Planning Commission for further information. Will be brought to council next month.

New Business:

- a. Mille Lacs Health System Ambulance and Crew rental agreement was approved during the Fire Department report.
- b. Von Briesen & Roper Contract for legal services pertaining to band land acquisition application was approved by **motion** from Dahlen and seconded by Keding. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- c. Resolution 2019-09D Accepting Donations of \$1300.00. \$1000.00 from Isle Lions Club for Sunday meat raffles for the Park Fund. \$100.00 from Isle Airport Association for the Isle Fire Department. \$200.00 from Gary Gauldin for Isle Fire Department. **Motion** by Dahlen, second by Houle. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Clerk’s Report:

- a. Public Hearing Notice for City Comprehensive Plan on October 7th, 2019 at 5:00PM.
- b. Solar Renewable Energy Workshop/Seminar September 18th in Minneapolis. Jason, Jamie and Ginger will attend.
- c. Clerk Hubbell awarded \$100 grant toward Advanced Clerk’s Academy session September 19-20th

Financials:

- a. General Fund balance: \$1,239,024.88 Liquor Fund balance: \$43,809.30

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 7:13 P.M.. by Houle, seconded by Dahlen. Next regular meeting, October 8th, 2019. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Dated on this 10th day of September, 2019

APPROVED on this 8th day of October, 2019

CERTIFIED BY VOTE:

Motion _____

Second _____

A Y E

Donald Dahlen
Ginger Houle
Monica Keding
Robert Koelfgen
Rodney Schultz

N A Y

Rodney Schultz - Mayor

ATTEST:

Jamie Hubbell, MCMC Clerk-Treasurer